

The Grant family took a summer vacation every year. Last summer, they had spent three weeks at the beach in California. The summer before that, the family had toured Washington, D.C. They had visited the museums of natural history, art, and flight and space. They had stayed in a hotel near the White House, but they never did see the president.

This year, they could not agree where they would like to go. Mother and Sam wanted to go to New York City. Angie and Dad wanted to travel out west. Tom didn't really care. He knew it would be fun wherever they went.

"I have a good idea," said Dad. "I think we should go camping in the Great Smoky Mountains."

"Why, dear, we don't know the first thing about camping. I mean, what would I wear and where would we sleep?" asked Mother, who actually wasn't the camping type.

"That's my whole point. We don't know anything about camping, so we should all learn. The Watsons go camping every fall and they seem to have a great time," said Dad.

The family agreed and set out to prepare for their trip. Mother was in charge of packing the food and clothes. Tom and Angie studied the maps of the Great Smoky Mountains, and Dad got the equipment such as the tents and stakes.

On Saturday morning, the family checked to make sure that everything was loaded. Then they took off. They were going to Camp Wiki in Kentucky. By late afternoon, they reached the camp. Dad set up the tent with the help of Mother. Tom and Angie worked on getting supper ready.

They built a small but warm campfire and roasted hotdogs and marshmallows. "This is a fancy meal for camping," said Angie, "and I think this vacation will be the best one we have ever had."

The next morning, the Grants decided to visit the famous caves of Camp Wiki, and they rose early to beat the crowd. They each took a light sweater because it is cool inside a cave. The tour lasted for two hours and the scenery was beautiful. "It is almost like an underground magic castle," said Angie, and the rest agreed. "May we take the tour again tomorrow morning?" asked Tom. "I would like to take some more pictures to take home."

"That sounds like a great idea to me," said Mother, and they went back to the tent to plan their activities for the rest of the day.

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